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SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR: UNSC BRIEFING UNDER OTHER MATTERS

¶1. USUN may draw from the talking points in para 2 for the April 2 UNSC briefing under "other matters" on Madagascar.

¶2. Begin points:

-- The United States condemns the process through which Marc Ravalomanana was forced to resign as President of the Republic of Madagascar and Andry Rajoelina subsequently was installed as the de facto head of state as undemocratic and contrary to the rule of law.

-- As we view this series of events as a coup d'etat, the United States will not maintain our current assistance partnership with Madagascar. In view of these developments, the United States is moving to suspend all assistance provided to the Government of Madagascar, including a USD 110 million MCC compact on land and financial sector reform and agribusiness development.

-- We urge Madagascar to take steps to restore constitutional governance through peaceful means.

-- We call on the people of Madagascar to undertake a democratic, consensual process to restore constitutional governance, culminating in free, fair and peaceful elections within six months as suggested by the African Union.

-- We support the efforts undertaken by the UN, including envoys Haile Menkerios and Tiebile Drame, to encourage dialogue during the present crisis and encourage the UN to remain engaged in Madagascar to press for a rapid return to constitutional order through fair elections.

Questions

-- How does the UN see its future role in facilitating a return to constitutional rule in Madagascar?

-- If the UN is unable to play a facilitation role, how do you see the AU or SADC becoming involved?

Background: U.S. development assistance to Madagascar consists primarily of health, education, environment and economic growth activities as well as food assistance. Total non-emergency State/USAID assistance to Madagascar was \$47.7 million in FY 2007 and \$58.2 million in FY 2008. Of this latter amount approximately \$38 million benefits the GOM and thus is subject to sanctions. U.S. support for humanitarian programs will continue.
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